consumers was fulfilled. The quality of coal supply has also shown progressive improvement due to several steps undertaken to improve the quality.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The steps taken to improve coal supplies are as follows:—

(1) Close coordination is being maintained with Railways on a day-today basis to ensure steady supply of coal to different sectors.

(2) The stock level in various power houses are being monitored closely on a day-to-day basis.

(3) The coal supply by different modes such as rail, road, MGR Belt rope Ways etc. are regulated through a well laid out and transparent system.

In order to improve coal quality, the following steps have been taken;

(i) Installation of CHPs and feeder breakers to eliminate complaints of oversized coal.

(ii) Installation of Electronic weighbridges.

(iii) Posting of one executive at each siding responsible for loading of good quality coal.

(iv) Benching in opencast mines.

(v) Selective blasting for fragmentation of coal.

(vi) Sampling/analysis of coal despatched by Public Analyst.

(vii) Joint sampling by major consumers like cement, fertiliser, loco and steel is made at loading end to assess the quality of despatches.

Use of Chinese "Long-Wall" Technology in undesground mines

26. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the 'Financial Express' dated the 9th July, 1994 that the Coal India Limited, Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, Singrauli Coal Complex are going to use Chinese "Long-Wall" technology to increase safety conditions in their underground mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating whether the Centre has sanctioned the above project;

(c) whether the country expects to produce around 550 million tonnes of coal in the next century which would liable it to comrete against coontries like Australia, Indonesia and South Africa; and

(d) if so, the details therof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Arising from bilateral discussions held with Chinese authorities during January last, China have offered for supply of longwall equipment alongwith technology of management of hard roof conditions in some of the underground mines of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. The technology offered aims at increasing coal production and safety standards in such underground mines.

(b) Government have approved import of two packages of longwall equipment from China for Padmavati Khani underground Project of Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd.

(c) and (d) Tentative estimates of energy demand scenario indicate the coal demand in the country in the year 2010 AD as 550 million tonnes per annum.

Abolition of compulsory pre-shipment inspection of export products

27. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to abolish compulsory pre-shipment inspection of export products;